

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /120 W

----- 108864

R 190545 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1335

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652/ N/ A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CB, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS/ REFUGEES REPATRIATED

1. ON MAY 15 A RVNAF C-130 REPATRIATED 106 ETHNIC VIETNAMESE INCLUDING POLITICAL PRISONERS, MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES OR RECENTLY GENERATED REFUGEES. THE POLITICAL PRISONERS, ACCORDING TO THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY, WERE ARRESTED BETWEEN 1968-70 DURING THE SIHANOUK ERA AND CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE, INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND SUPPLY OF GOODS OR MONEY " PRESUMABLY ON BEHALF OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT." THE POLITICAL PRISONERS INCLUDED 53 MEN AND 17 WOMEN. AN ADDITIONAL 11 OF THEIR CHILDREN AND 25 RECENTLY- GENERATED REFUGEES FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG AND NEAK LUONG COMPLETED THE PARTY.

2. THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY DESCRIBED THE POLITICAL PRISONERS AS MAINLY POOR, UNEDUCATED FISHERMEN,  
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ARTISANS, MECHANICS OR SMALL BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE BORN IN CAMBODIA. INTERVIEWED BY JOURNALISTS SOME COMPLAINED OF TORTURE AND GENERAL MISTREATMENT AT THE TIME OF THEIR ARRESTS. MOST APPEARED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER PRESENT TO BE IN FAIR CONDITION, THOUGH A FEW INFANTS WERE OBVIOUSLY VERY ILL AND UNDERNOURISHED.

3. ONE YOUTH INTERVIEWED SAID HE WAS ARRESTED FOR GIVING MONEY TO VIET CONG, ADDING HE HAD NOT GIVEN VERY MUCH. A WOMEN REPORTED THAT SHE WAS ARRESTED FOR BUYING CLOTH WITH WHICH TO MAKE A VIETNAMESE FLAG.

4. ACCORDING TO THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY THE PARTY, WHICH LEFT IN THE CHARGE OF VIETNAMESE NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS WHO CAME FOR THAT PURPOSE, WILL BE FREED AFTER THEIR IDENTITIES ARE VERIFIED AND THEY HAVE BEEN ISSUED PROPER DOCUMENTS. MOST HAVE RELATIVES IN VIETNAM WHO CAN ASSIST THEM AND THOSE FEW WHO DO NOT WILL BE CARED FOR BY VIETNAMESE SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES.

5. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NO FIGURES, THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FEW, IF ANY, VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS REMAIN AND HAS ASKED KHMER AUTHORITIES FOR A LIST OF ETHNIC VIETNAMESE UNDER ARREST FOR OTHER OFFENSIES. THE EMBASSY SAID HIGH- LEVEL COOPERTION IS READILY FORTHCOMING BUT VIETNAMESE STILL HAVE PROBLEMS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND WITH KHMER TROOPS IN THE PROVINCE.

6. THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IS PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS TO REPATRIATE THOSE REFUGEES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR GOODS, CAN NO LONGER EARN A LIVING IN CAMBODIA AND WISH TO GO TO SOUTH VIETNAM. THREE THOUSAND VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM RECENT FIGHTING AT KG TRALACH ( KG CHHNANG PROVINE) HAVE MOVED TO KOMPONG LUONG. FURTHER REPATRIATIONS WILL DRAW ON THESE REFUGEES AND OTHERS NOW NEAR NEAK LUONG WHO FLED THE FEBRUARY FIGHTING AT BANAM.  
SWANK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, CB, VS  
**To:** BANGKOK  
BIEN HOA  
CAN THO  
CINCPAC  
EA  
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VIENTIANE

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